

Examples to Accompany Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)

[DCRM\(B\)
home](#)

[Next
example »](#)

Introduction

The publication in 2007 of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, or DCRM(B), superseded previous manuals for rare book cataloging and brought about a demand for changes in its companion volume of cataloging examples as well. A revised version of *Examples* was needed to reflect DCRM(B)'s more rigorous approach to transcription, its focused attention on recording series information, and its application of the cataloging rules to include machine-made books. The *Examples* also needed to illustrate other rules, such as DCRM(B)'s directions for using square brackets to identify supplied information, transcribing manufacturers, recording roman dates, and counting engraved title pages as plates.

The RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee appointed Nina Schneider and Eduardo Tenenbaum co-chairs of the DCRM(B) Examples editorial team in 2008, and over the next two years, the team recataloged the fifty original examples, and collected, scanned, and cataloged almost forty new examples. Work on the *Examples*—cataloging, editing, and review -- continued through 2012 with Jane Carpenter, in the online environment of Digress.it, which allowed for collaborative editing of records and rule applications, and for easily receiving and responding to comments and suggestions from the cataloging community.

Importance of Examples as Cataloging Tool

Like its predecessors, *Examples to Accompany Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* continues to be an important tool, not only for cataloging practitioners, but also for cataloging teachers, bibliographers, and students of printing and book history. It helps the cataloger to interpret and understand the DCRM(B) rules which underlie all of the examples, and which serve as the prescriptive standard for clear, consistent, and effective rare book cataloging. And it offers practical guidance on how to apply DCRM(B) rules to an actual MARC bibliographic record. Difficult or complicated rules, involving such things as letter forms, transcription, the wording of notes, or the counting of plates, may suddenly become clear after studying an example in which the book's descriptive and identifying elements have been laid out in their proper places in the catalog record, and in their proper forms.

Changes in DCRM(B) Examples

Although the importance of the *Examples* as a cataloging tool has remained unchanged, its format, scope, and the structure and presentation of its examples, have been expanded and updated for the 21st century.

First of all, *Examples* for DCRM(B) has moved from print to electronic format, and, for the first time, is available online, both through the Library of Congress' subscription-based *Cataloger's Desktop*, and through the RBMS website at rbms.info. The new electronic format will enhance the cataloger's use and understanding of the *Examples*, by allowing the text and images to be accessed at any time from any computer, easily searched, and updated in a timely manner.

Secondly, the scope of the *Examples* is more comprehensive. There are now 89 examples, almost twice the number included in earlier editions of *Examples to Accompany Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books* (or DCRB). Although two of the original fifty DCRB Examples have been dropped – Examples 18 and 44 described manuscript and rare serial items which are out of scope for DCRM(B) – the remaining 48 have been recataloged according to DCRM(B) rules, and 40 new examples have been added. Several of the new examples were contributed by members of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee in response to a call for titles illustrating specific rules; most of them, however, had been previously compiled for use in RBMS-sponsored cataloging workshops created and taught by Deborah J. Leslie, former chair of the Bibliographic Standards Committee, who generously agreed to let the editors include them here.

The focus on post-1801 books has also been expanded, increasing the number of records for machine-made books in *DCRM(B) Examples* from four to ten. There are five records for books in series, such as the 1892 *Voyages and adventures of Ferdinand Mendez Pinto* (Example 51), and the 1910 *Fairy stories* (Example 76), which demonstrate the application of rules for series outlined in the newly-added Area 6 of DCRM(B). Other records in this group illustrate how the application of rare book cataloging rules can be extended beyond hand-press books to include modern formats, such as an 1890 dime novel *Deadwood Dick's big deal!* (Example 73), a 1916 piece of ephemera – a promotional brochure for the San Diego Exposition (Example 88), and a 1963 livre d'artiste, *Le fil de l'épée* (Example 50).

Since the publication of *Examples to Accompany Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books*, 2nd edition, AACR2 has been revised and updated. Access points for persons, corporate bodies, and uniform titles follow instructions in AACR2, 2nd edition, 2002 revision, 2005 update, and *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations* (LCRI).

MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data is the presentation format for the MARC-coded records. The form of tagging does not reflect the the practice of any particular cataloging utility or local online catalog.

Finally, the exclusive use of MARC-coded records in the *Examples* is being challenged with the inclusion, for the first time, of some examples in MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema). Rare book catalogers increasingly need to be familiar with other metadata standards for their work in the digital environment, as they are called upon to make their materials web-searchable and web-useable, and thus provide greater access to their materials than the traditional library catalog can offer.

Changes in the Arrangement and Structure of Examples

The chronological arrangement and numbering of the original 50 DCRB examples (Examples 1-50) has been preserved in *DCRM(B) Examples*, to make it easier for users who might wish to compare the two records for a particular work cataloged according to both sets of rules. The newly-added examples (Examples 51-89) follow the original examples in no particular order.

The catalog records for *DCRM(B) Examples* continue the tradition of using MARC format, with full tagging for record-level variable fields, although fixed fields and 0XX fields, which appear before the main entry, have been omitted.

As before, access to genre, provenance, printing and publishing details, and physical description is provided in the 655 field through use of the thesaurus terms in Controlled Vocabularies for Use in Rare Book and Special Collections Cataloging, developed and maintained by the Bibliographic Standards Committee.

However, the revised examples did bring with them some changes, involving the inclusion of some fields, the omission of others, as well as changes in format:

1. Many local systems will generate the display constant “References:” for notes on published descriptions in bibliographies or other reference sources, making it unnecessary for the cataloger to provide it. However, these examples assume that the system does not generate such a label, and in keeping with the instructions given in rule 7B14.1, all 510 notes in *DCRM(B) Examples* now begin with the word “References” and a colon.
2. Citation forms used throughout the examples are taken from the second edition of [*Standard Citation Forms for Published Bibliographies and Catalogs Used in Rare Book Cataloging*](#), which is currently under revision. Although initially, the editors had hoped to begin using new, fuller citation forms in the 510 notes, in the end, they realized that the revised forms were not yet ready for publication and to apply the revised citation forms for these examples would be premature.
3. With regard to copy-specific notes, a full range of tagging options replaces the non-numeric mnemonic tag used in DCRB Examples, LN (“Local Note”). These options include 500 copy-specific notes of general interest, qualified with the local library’s institutional symbol; 561 provenance notes; and 563 binding notes. How and where catalogers choose to record copy-specific information will vary, based on local practices, the configuration of local catalogs, and the needs of their users.
4. The 755 field, once used to provide “physical characteristics access,” has been officially discontinued, and thus removed from the revised examples.
5. Renewed attention has been placed on the 7XX fields to trace names connected with the item that would be of interest in a rare book or special collections library, such as

printer, illustrator, or engraver. Tracings for persons related to the item in a copy-specific way, such as binder or former owner, are no longer tagged as LAE (“Local Added Name Entry”), but are included in the 7XX fields, and qualified with the library’s institutional code.

6. Hierarchical Place Name Access is now provided in the 752 field in all of the examples.

Presentation of DCRM(B) Rules in the Examples

Another notable change in the revised *Examples* involves the presentation of the DCRM(B) rules. In *DCRB Examples*, only the few most important rules appeared together below the catalog record, identified with rule number and a brief descriptive phrase. Although it would be unnecessary and cumbersome to list every rule that a cataloger might invoke in creating a record, in these *Examples* there has been a more comprehensive application of the rules for each particular field. Rules are interspersed throughout the body of the record, following each field to which they have been applied for easier reference. Finally, each rule number is hyperlinked, so that a simple click with the mouse will *take* the user to the appropriate section in DCRM(B). The editors have also allowed bracketed comments in some of the records to remain. These comments, which were either added by the editors, or carried over from Deborah J. Leslie’s rare book cataloging workshops, may suggest different transcription options, clarify a confusing situation, or refer the user to related sections in AACR2, especially with respect to the rules for capitalization.

Acknowledgments

Examples to Accompany Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books) represents the inspiration, perseverance, expertise, and hard work of many people.

Examples was prepared under the aegis of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee. From the beginning of the project in June 2008, and throughout the following three years, Nina Schneider of the Williams Andrews Clark Memorial Library at UCLA provided editorial leadership, cataloging insight, and technological savvy. Eduardo Tenenbaum of Princeton University was her capable and thoughtful co-editor; always forward-thinking, it was he who first proposed including in the *Examples* records cataloged in MODS. Jane Carpenter of UCLA also served as co-editor, stepping in to replace Eduardo Tenenbaum when he retired from the project in June 2010.

Deborah J. Leslie of the Folger Shakespeare Library graciously allowed us to include almost forty examples from rare book cataloging workshops she has taught at the RBMS Preconference, Rare Book School, California Rare Book School, and other regional workshops. This revised edition of *Examples* is much richer and more comprehensive for the contribution of her records.

Throughout the course of the project, members of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee offered interested and thoughtful comments at meetings, and in August 2011, participated in a close reading and review of the Examples in preparation for their publication:

Ryan Hildebrand	Marcia H. Barrett	Lori Dekydtspotter
Todd Fell	Eileen M. Heeran	Francis Lapka
Martha M. Lawler	Michelle Mascaro	Ann K.D. Myers
Jennifer K. Nelson	Margaret F. Nichols	Aislinn Catherine Sotelo
Catherine C. Uecker	Stephen Skuce	Kate Moriarty

In the final stages of editing, when additional proofreading was needed, Michelle Mascaro (The University of Akron), Lori Dekydtspotter (Indiana University), Linda Isaacs (Cal State Fullerton), and Deborah J. Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library) made generous – and greatly-appreciated – contributions of their time, expertise, and optical acuity to painstakingly proofread all 89 examples one last time.

In addition, a special note of thanks goes to those members of the Bibliographic Standards Committee and the larger RBMS community whose conscientious, detailed, and insightful Digress.it comments were of enormous help to the editors in clarifying, correcting, and amending the examples, in particular: John Lancaster, Patrick Olson, Stephen Skuce (MIT), Ann Copeland (Penn State), Randal S. Brandt (UC Berkeley), and Deborah J. Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library).

James P. Ascher of the RBMS Web Team, worked tirelessly to provide an excellent online home for the examples, migrating the examples to a Digress.it blog from the original wiki, and was always willing to answer questions, fix problems, and assist those who were less technologically-savvy than he. Thanks go as well to the other members of the RBMS Web Team (past and present) – Randal Brandt, Melissa Hubbard, Jason Kovari, Christopher Thomas Smith, and Shannon Supple – for their ongoing work to ensure that DCRM(B) Examples will be freely available on the RBMS website. Jason was particularly helpful in the final stages of preparing the examples for review.

MARC records were cataloged by Nina Schneider, Eduardo Tenenbaum, Deborah J. Leslie, Jane Carpenter, Aislinn Sotelo, and Randy Brandt, who also supplied images for some of the examples. MODS records are included, thanks to the cataloging expertise of Aislinn Sotelo, in collaboration with colleagues Brad Westbrook and Arwen Hutt from UC San Diego. The fine digital scans provided by Octavio Olvera and Brandon Barton of UCLA Library Special Collections are also greatly appreciated, as well as the advice and guidance of Caroline Cubé. Thanks to Tin Duong, in UCLA's Center for Digital Humanities, for his help in making the images accessible to the editors.

The final product wouldn't have been possible without Lori Dekydtspotter, Aislinn Sotelo, Michelle Mascaro, Francis Lapka, and Martha Lawler. They volunteered to assist in the final formatting of the *Examples* under a tight deadline.

Many thanks are due to the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Loyola University of Chicago, the Beinecke Library, Yale University, Mandeville Special Collections at UC San Diego, and the Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University for their generosity in providing images (in many cases reshooting the same images from the earlier edition of *Examples*), and to Duke University for permission to reproduce items from their collection. Our special thanks go to Catherine Uecker who masterfully coordinated the permissions and delivery process in an organized and timely manner.

Finally, the editors would like to thank Bruce Johnson, Library of Congress Senior Library Information Systems Specialist and *Cataloger's Desktop* manager, for his creative suggestions and support in incorporating *DCRM(B) Examples* into *Cataloger's Desktop*; Peter Seligman of LC's Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS), for advice and assistance with publishing, distribution, and copyright issues; Kate James for reviewing the *Examples* on behalf of LC's Policy and Standards Division (PSD); and Elizabeth Robinson, our savvy liaison to the Library of Congress.

Nina M. Schneider
Head Cataloger
William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA

Jane F. Carpenter
Special Collections Cataloger
UCLA Library Special Collections

[DCRM\(B\)](#) [Next](#)
[home](#) [example »](#)